





Governor Mark Sanford and Crime Victim Tarsha Perry at the signing of Senate 47, the "1 Strike Pedophile" Bill, at SLED Headquarters 2005

HIGHLIGHTS

- June 1997-Act 141, the enabling legislation for the delineation of services throughout the Justice System, including the Juvenile System, is enacted
- October 1997- Act 141 Services to begin
- January 22 1998-SC Constitutional Amendment becomes law

- SC Constitution is unique in that it establishes rights for every victim of all crime, even victims of juvenile crime.
- SC is making important strides for crime victims, but a vast number of victims are still not receiving their Constitutionally guaranteed rights

- According to the SC Constitution, if victims are not provided their rights, a victim may submit a Writ of Mandamus to the court to require their rights be provided to them
- To date , SC has only had two cases filed with the Supreme Court in an attempt to clarify specific victim rights issues.

- Significantly, SC provides crime victims with unique access to criminal courts where most states do not!
- The next wave of initiatives for crime victims must be in the arena of enforcement

- SCVAN received a federal grant in 2004 that seeks to enforce the rights of victims in SC by collaboration with the SC Bar, the SC Attorney General's Office, the SC Ombudsman, SOVA, and the Charleston School of Law
- Over 400 requests for legal services have been received by the Crime Victim Legal Network to date.

Case Breakdowns, most frequent first:

- Notifications
- Participation in System
- Treated w/Fairness, Dignity & Respect
- Plea Negotiations
- Remedies/Restitution
- Protection from Intimidation & Harm
- Prompt Disposition

- Failure to Charge
- Definition of Victim
- Privacy Rights of Victims

The Justice For All Act

- 2004- US Congress passed the strongest federal crime victims' legislation in the nation's history after the failure to approve a Federal Constitutional Amendment: HR 5107, The Justice for All Act

- The Act strengthens the rights of victims of federal crimes & provides enforcement and remedies when there is a failure to comply; Title 1 is named in honor of 5 victims: Scott Campbell, Stephanie Roper, Wendy Preston, Louarna Gillis and Nila Lynn; HR 5107 also includes provisions for DNA backlog and authorizes \$155 million in funding

- Finally, all of us thank the victims and survivors of crime it has been our privilege to serve. They have taught us most of what we know, and their courage reminds us every day why it is so important for us to improve our skills.